

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220879

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRN, RO

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BUCHAREST 4082

1. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, SENDING A CIVIL AVIATION DELEGATION TO BUCHAREST IS NOT POSSIBLE. WHILE IT TRUE THAT DECEMBER 1968 TALKS HELD HERE, TIME WHICH HAS ELAPSED SINCE THEN VERY MUCH WEAKENS THE ARGUMENT FOR ALTERNATING VENUES. (GENERAL ZGAVIRDICI'S RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S. WAS ON ROMANIAN INITIATIVE, NOT AT USG INVITATION.)

2. MORE IMPORTANT, WHEN THE GENERAL'S GROUP WAS IN WASHINGTON, THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE U.S. WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO ARRANGE NEGOTIATIONS AT AN EARLY DATE, BUT THAT THE MEETINGS WOULD HAVE TO BE IN WASHINGTON IF WE WERE TO BE ABLE TO EVEN CONSIDER SOMETHING DURING THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR. THE ROMANIANS AT THAT TIME DID NOT REACT NEGATIVELY TO THE IDEA OF RETURNING HERE.

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3. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, STAFFING SITUATION AT DEPARTMENT AND CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD, ESPECIALLY NEGOTIATING SCHEDULES AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PERSONS WHO WOULD BE INVOLVED WITH THE ROMANIAN TALKS, MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSIDER SENDING A DELEGATION TO ROMANIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. DRAWING ON AS MUCH OF PRECEDING AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE,

EMBASSY REQUESTED REITERATE OUR WILLINGNESS HOST A ROMANIAN DELEGATION ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 14. (IF ROMANIANS CANNOT COME UNTIL NOVEMBER 19, WE CAN STILL WORK TOWARD SIGNING BILATERAL AGREEMENT BY EARLY DECEMBER, BUT ODDS FAVORING SUCCESS WOULD BE DIMINISHED SINCE TALKS WOULD HAVE TO END BY NOVEMBER 23 DUE OTHER U.S. COMMITMENTS BEGINNING 26TH.) RUSH

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